April 4, 1958

BUSINESS STATISTICS

A WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT TO THE SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS

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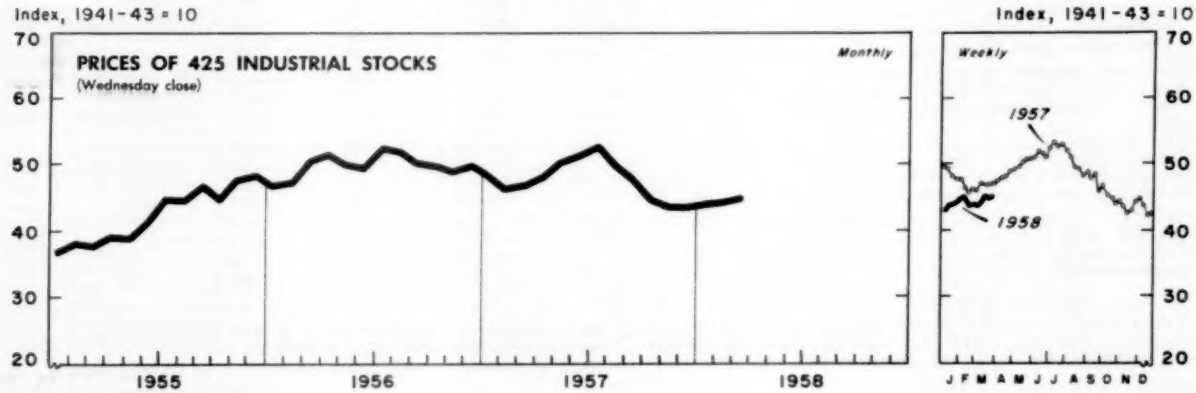
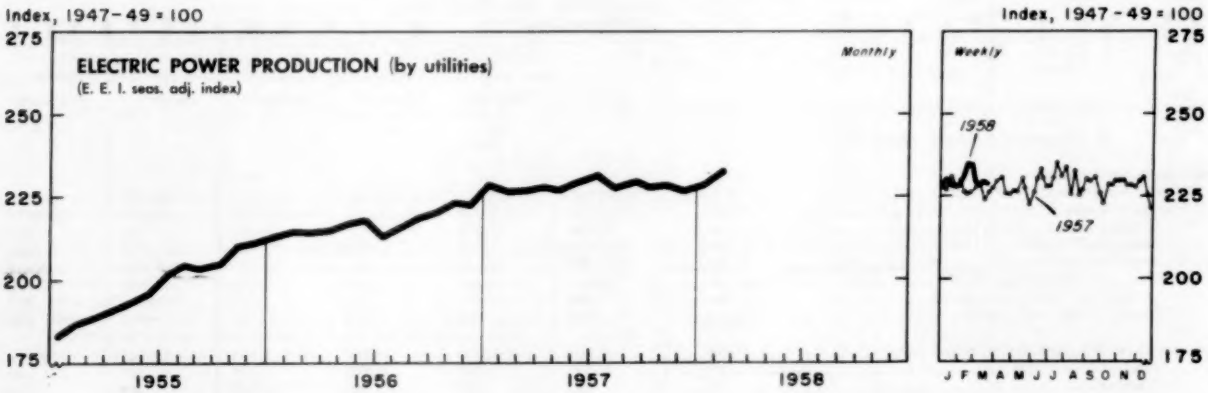
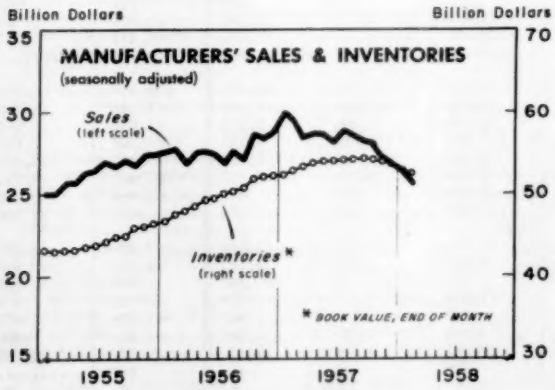
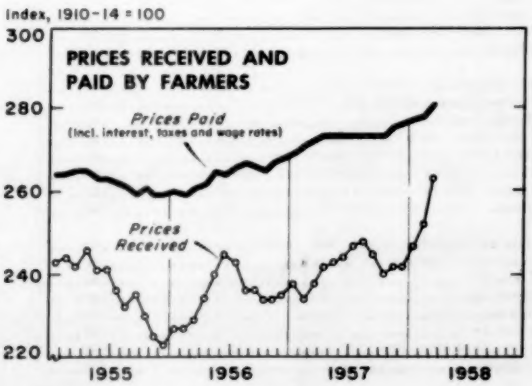
SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS









WEEKLY BUSINESS STATISTICS[1]

ITEM	1957		1958			
	Mar. 23	Mar. 30	Mar. 8	Mar. 15	Mar. 22	Mar. 29
Commodity prices, wholesale:						
All commodities.....1947-49=100..	.....	*116.9	119.4	119.5	119.6	119.8
Farm products.....do....	.....	*88.8	99.0	99.8	99.8	100.4
Foods, processed.....do....	.....	*103.7	109.6	109.5	109.9	110.7
All other.....do....	.....	*125.4	125.8	125.9	125.9	125.9
22 commodities 2/.....do....	88.8	88.6	85.6	85.4	85.5	85.5
Department store sales.....do....	113	112	105	106	109	.....
Insured unemployment, total.....thous..	1,665	1,609	3,501	3,493	.....	.....
State programs.....do....	1,539	1,488	3,231	3,220	.....	.....
Failures, industrial and commercial.....number..	318	290	358	336	357	327
Finance:						
Currency in circulation 3/.....mil. of dol..	30,589	30,502	30,562	30,641	30,592	30,524
Federal Reserve bank credit outstanding, total 3/.....do....	25,158	24,930	24,309	24,456	24,638	24,742
Member bank reserve balances 3/.....do....	19,204	18,971	18,674	18,699	18,930	18,725
Excess reserves, estimated 3/.....do....	626	609	551	608	607	684
Federal Reserve reporting member banks in leading cities: 4/						
Demand deposits, adjusted.....mil. of dol..	55,704	55,472	54,503	56,031	55,243	.....
Time deposits, except U. S. Government.....do....	23,020	23,067	26,038	26,264	26,424	.....
Loans and investments (adjusted), total.....do....	86,747	85,604	88,576	89,408	90,494	.....
U. S. Government obligations.....do....	25,990	25,164	27,707	28,025	28,255	.....
Commercial, industrial, and agr. loans (gross)....do....	31,579	31,443	30,241	30,372	31,041	.....
Real-estate loans (gross).....do....	8,746	8,740	8,709	8,725	8,710	.....
Bond yields, domestic corporate (Moody's) 3/.....percent..	3.97	3.96	4.03	4.03	4.04	4.05
Stock prices, 500 stocks (Stand. & Poor's) 4/...1941-43=10..	44.10	44.09	41.47	42.41	42.09	42.30
Industrials, 425 stocks.....do....	46.99	46.97	44.25	45.33	44.95	45.18
Production:						
Bituminous coal 3/.....thous. of short tons..	1,726	1,765	1,350	1,273	1,240	.....
Electric power, by utilities.....mil. of kw.-hr..	11,723	11,694	11,793	11,860	11,756	.....
Passenger cars and trucks (Ward's).....number..	161,865	152,712	101,415	103,399	96,357	110,183
Petroleum (crude) and condensate 3/.....thous. of bbl..	7,819	7,786	6,328	6,257	6,263	.....
Steel 5/.....thous. of short tons..	2,392	2,364	1,425	1,463	1,417	1,366
Percent of capacity.....	93.5	92.4	#52.8	#54.2	#52.5	#50.6
Freight carloadings, total.....thous. of cars..	686	695	544	539	533	.....
Miscellaneous.....do....	355	361	280	280	274	.....

1/ Data do not always cover calendar weeks. 2/ Tuesday prices. 3/ Daily average. 4/ Wednesday data. 5/ Week beginning March 31, 1958: Production, 1,298 thous. short tons; operating rate, 48.1 percent. * Monthly index for March 1957. # Based on January 1, 1958, annual capacity (140,742,570 tons); not comparable with 1957 rates which are based on January 1, 1957, annual capacity (133,459,150 tons).

MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS

ITEM	1957				1958	
	January	February	November	December	January	February
GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS						
Manufacturers' sales:						
Value (unadjusted), total.....mil. of dol..	28,928	27,869	27,270	26,347	r25,858	24,547
Durable-goods industries, total 1/.....do....	14,363	13,975	13,577	13,152	r12,313	11,533
Primary metal.....do....	2,574	2,374	2,102	1,954	r1,948	1,695
Fabricated metal.....do....	1,463	1,438	1,433	1,336	r1,329	1,264
Machinery (including electrical).....do....	4,080	4,171	4,011	4,131	r3,693	3,666
Transportation equipment (incl. motor vehicles)...do....	3,611	3,467	3,463	3,495	r3,066	2,766
Lumber and furniture.....do....	989	941	854	769	r814	769
Stone, clay, and glass.....do....	646	628	659	556	r545	494
Nondurable-goods industries, total 1/.....do....	14,565	13,894	13,693	13,195	r13,545	13,014
Food and beverage.....do....	4,260	4,077	4,258	4,176	r4,167	4,102
Tobacco.....do....	338	312	358	380	357	318
Textile.....do....	1,143	1,131	1,085	954	r994	989
Paper.....do....	923	840	871	809	r904	842
Chemical.....do....	2,002	1,853	1,856	1,726	r1,888	1,731
Petroleum and coal.....do....	3,273	2,871	2,744	2,893	r2,913	2,677
Rubber.....do....	491	460	414	414	444	.....
Value (adjusted), total.....do....	29,956	29,534	27,221	26,690	r26,350	25,593
Durable-goods industries, total 1/.....do....	14,941	14,808	13,548	13,092	r12,646	11,990
Primary metal.....do....	2,594	2,453	2,156	2,073	r1,952	1,765
Fabricated metal.....do....	1,594	1,573	1,429	1,431	r1,402	1,359
Machinery (including electrical).....do....	4,342	4,290	4,175	3,954	r3,847	3,689
Transportation equipment (incl. motor vehicles)...do....	3,570	3,620	3,255	3,147	r3,001	2,835
Lumber and furniture.....do....	1,039	1,053	850	851	r846	799
Stone, clay, and glass.....do....	751	766	659	654	r634	588
Nondurable-goods industries, total 1/.....do....	15,015	14,726	13,673	13,598	r13,704	13,603
Food and beverage.....do....	4,558	4,447	4,257	4,337	r4,412	4,407
Tobacco.....do....	363	371	351	392	384	361
Textile.....do....	1,174	1,252	1,025	999	r989	1,015
Paper.....do....	942	875	862	861	r886	877
Chemical.....do....	1,996	1,930	1,941	1,890	r1,836	1,803
Petroleum and coal.....do....	3,241	2,960	2,717	2,654	r2,774	2,760
Rubber.....do....	496	495	431	427	448	.....

r/ Revised. 1/ Includes data for "other industries" not shown.
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ITEM	1957				1958	
	January	February	November	December	January	February
GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS - Continued						
Manufacturers' inventories, end of month:						
Book value (unadjusted), total.....mil. of dol..	52,941	53,320	53,746	53,688	r53,298	52,847
Durable-goods industries, total 1/.....do....	30,835	31,196	31,306	31,137	r30,770	30,478
Primary metal.....do....	4,068	4,077	4,443	4,466	r4,384	4,298
Fabricated metal.....do....	3,106	3,165	3,002	2,963	r2,989	2,959
Machinery (including electrical).....do....	10,408	10,524	10,415	10,283	r10,188	10,118
Transportation equipment (incl. motor vehicles).do....	7,803	7,878	8,006	7,885	r7,669	7,474
Lumber and furniture.....do....	1,869	1,889	1,794	1,814	r1,801	1,816
Stone, clay, and glass.....do....	1,179	1,217	1,210	1,257	r1,262	1,309
Nondurable-goods industries, total 1/.....do....	22,106	22,124	22,440	22,551	r22,528	22,369
Food and beverage.....do....	5,001	4,902	5,026	4,912	r4,786	4,705
Tobacco.....do....	2,131	2,132	1,965	1,962	r2,027	2,011
Textile.....do....	2,739	2,736	2,562	2,628	r2,667	2,680
Paper.....do....	1,362	1,412	1,403	1,444	r1,443	1,471
Chemical.....do....	3,648	3,701	3,720	3,863	r3,886	3,900
Petroleum and coal.....do....	3,102	3,101	3,730	3,644	r3,543	3,432
Rubber.....do....	1,057	1,057	1,079	1,103	1,111	.....
Book value (adjusted), total.....do....	52,434	52,918	53,871	53,520	r52,911	52,461
Durable-goods industries, total 1/.....do....	30,631	30,961	31,511	31,148	r30,625	30,249
Primary metal.....do....	3,962	4,071	4,279	4,269	r4,273	4,292
Fabricated metal.....do....	3,169	3,230	3,095	3,086	r3,081	3,019
Machinery (including electrical).....do....	10,444	10,454	10,517	10,374	r10,222	10,050
Transportation equipment (incl. motor vehicles).do....	7,632	7,738	7,976	7,801	r7,529	7,345
Lumber and furniture.....do....	1,839	1,865	1,845	1,827	r1,772	1,793
Stone, clay, and glass.....do....	1,156	1,170	1,274	1,270	r1,237	1,259
Nondurable-goods industries, total 1/.....do....	21,803	21,957	22,360	22,372	r22,286	22,212
Food and beverage.....do....	4,820	4,867	4,732	4,689	r4,627	4,670
Tobacco.....do....	2,010	2,030	1,965	1,924	r1,912	1,915
Textile.....do....	2,766	2,694	2,628	2,679	r2,694	2,639
Paper.....do....	1,362	1,398	1,417	1,444	r1,443	1,456
Chemical.....do....	3,593	3,643	3,763	3,820	r3,824	3,837
Petroleum and coal.....do....	3,133	3,197	3,657	3,644	r3,615	3,538
Rubber.....do....	1,047	1,036	1,101	1,092	1,100	.....
Manufacturers' orders:						
New orders, net (unadjusted), total.....do....	28,765	27,540	26,056	25,067	r24,264	23,205
Durable-goods industries, total 1/.....do....	14,374	13,712	12,385	11,890	r10,749	10,321
Primary metal.....do....	2,453	2,495	1,758	1,563	r1,619	1,484
Fabricated metal.....do....	1,424	1,461	1,144	1,189	r1,189	1,079
Machinery (including electrical).....do....	4,210	4,188	3,431	3,520	r3,276	3,435
Transportation equipment (incl. motor vehicles)...do....	3,452	2,957	3,616	3,669	r2,448	2,198
Nondurable-goods industries, total.....do....	14,391	13,828	13,671	13,177	r13,515	12,884
New orders, net (adjusted), total.....do....	28,927	28,647	26,030	25,060	r24,369	23,995
Durable-goods industries, total 1/.....do....	14,176	14,102	12,362	11,399	r10,704	10,549
Primary metal.....do....	2,345	2,403	1,686	1,512	r1,556	1,390
Fabricated metal.....do....	1,468	1,554	1,243	1,213	r1,239	1,134
Machinery (including electrical).....do....	4,246	4,268	3,652	3,422	r3,336	3,426
Transportation equipment (incl. motor vehicles)...do....	3,282	3,099	3,345	2,932	r2,356	2,338
Nondurable-goods industries, total.....do....	14,751	14,545	13,668	13,661	r13,665	13,446
Unfilled orders, end of month (unadjusted), total.....do....	64,047	63,718	51,977	50,697	r49,103	47,761
Durable-goods industries, total 1/.....do....	61,026	60,763	49,389	48,127	r46,563	45,351
Primary metal.....do....	7,023	7,144	5,187	4,796	r4,467	4,256
Fabricated metal.....do....	4,487	4,510	3,630	3,483	r3,343	3,158
Machinery (including electrical).....do....	20,213	20,230	17,731	17,120	r16,703	16,472
Transportation equipment (incl. motor vehicles)...do....	24,425	23,915	18,576	18,750	r18,132	17,564
Nondurable-goods industries, total.....do....	3,021	2,955	2,588	2,570	r2,540	2,410
EMPLOYMENT						
Labor turnover in manufacturing establishments:						
Accession rate.....monthly rate per 100 employees..	3.2	2.8	2.2	1.7	r2.5	p2.1
Separation rate, total.....do....	3.3	3.0	4.0	3.8	r5.0	p3.7
Discharge.....do....	.2	.2	.2	.2	.2	p.2
Lay-off.....do....	1.5	1.4	2.7	2.7	r3.8	p2.7
Quit.....do....	1.3	1.2	.9	.7	.8	p.6
Military and miscellaneous.....do....	.3	.2	.2	.2	r.3	p.2
FINANCE						
Life insurance written (new paid-for insurance):						
Value, estimated total.....mil. of dol..	4,338	5,000	5,469	6,727	5,402	4,860
Group and wholesale.....do....	705	1,281	1,181	2,109	1,554	944
Industrial.....do....	472	509	465	454	428	459
Ordinary.....do....	3,161	3,210	3,823	4,164	3,420	3,457
LEATHER AND PRODUCTS						
Leather production:						
Calf and whole kip.....thous. of skins..	872	844	786	785	786	.....
Cattle hide and side kip.....thous. of hides and kips..	2,254	2,164	2,060	1,955	2,108	.....
Goat and kid.....thous. of skins..	2,064	1,892	1,600	1,659	1,931	.....
Sheep and lamb.....do....	2,065	2,225	1,925	1,737	1,906	.....

r/ Revised. p/ Preliminary. 1/ Includes data for "other industries" not shown.

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ITEM	1957				1958	
	January	February	November	December	January	February
METALS AND MANUFACTURES						
Castings, gray iron:						
Orders, unfilled, for sale.....thous. of short tons..	905	931	705	676	638	.....
Shipments, total.....do....	1,213	1,103	940	864	868	.....
For sale.....do....	642	582	483	444	436	.....
Castings, malleable iron:						
Orders, unfilled, for sale.....short tons..	93,886	90,725	80,074	74,863	67,292	.....
Shipments, total.....do....	85,977	78,028	67,904	60,425	62,734	.....
For sale.....do....	51,508	46,729	38,085	34,343	34,920	.....
Castings, steel:						
Shipments, total.....do....	169,240	154,932	127,115	120,787	120,722	.....
For sale, total.....do....	133,826	121,667	98,436	92,125	94,717	.....
Railway specialties.....do....	30,090	27,181	26,892	23,403	22,545	.....
Fabricated structural steel:						
Orders, new (net).....thous. of short tons..	320	294	218	141	162	186
Shipments.....do....	290	319	334	320	317	283
Backlog, end of month.....do....	4,194	4,262	3,233	2,959	2,778	2,727
Machine tools (metal-cutting):						
New orders (net), total.....mil. of dol..	63.25	58.20	28.35	18.65	r19.30	p22.85
Domestic.....do....	56.30	51.10	25.05	15.15	r15.95	p18.60
Shipments, total.....do....	76.55	77.70	47.60	56.15	r47.75	p38.40
Domestic.....do....	67.55	72.05	41.70	50.25	r42.00	p34.30
Estimated backlog.....months..	6.0	5.8	3.3	3.1	r2.9	p2.9

COMMODITY PRICES	1957			1958		
	February	March	December	January	February	March
Prices received and paid by farmers:						
Prices received, all farm products.....1910-14=100..	234	238	242	247	252	263
Crops.....do....	234	237	218	225	229	244
Commercial vegetables, fresh market.....do....	236	252	240	334	376	396
Cotton.....do....	255	252	239	232	211	220
Feed grains and hay.....do....	181	181	152	146	148	152
Food grains.....do....	235	235	221	217	219	224
Fruit.....do....	221	237	180	183	200	228
Oil-bearing crops.....do....	260	265	237	233	229	234
Potatoes (including dry edible beans).....do....	153	148	171	178	204	272
Tobacco.....do....	458	459	466	474	475	475
Livestock and products.....do....	234	238	264	267	273	280
Dairy products.....do....	266	260	275	269	266	261
Meat animals.....do....	249	263	294	308	324	336
Poultry and eggs.....do....	157	150	185	174	169	187
Wool.....do....	267	274	261	254	249	229
Prices paid:						
All commodities and services.....do....	271	272	276	277	278	281
Family living items.....do....	284	284	289	289	290	293
Production items.....do....	256	258	263	264	265	268
All commod., services, int., taxes, and wage rates..do....	293	r294	299	301	302	304
Parity ratio.....do....	80	81	81	82	83	87
Retail price:						
All commodities (U.S. Dept. of Commerce index).1935-39=100..	214.9	214.7	217.2	217.8	218.0	.....

r/ Revised. p/ Preliminary.
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SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS